

Q1
Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/020,945

Applicant(s)

KO ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Kim-Kwok CHU

2653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Terminal Disclaimer and Amendment filed on 3/11/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 6, 7, 9, 10, 24, 26, 16-23, 25, 27 and 28 which are renumbered as 1-17 respectively.
3. The drawings filed on 19 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/333,520.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
 of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 6, 7, 9, 10 and 16-28 are allowable over prior art.

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter based on the Terminal Disclaimer and Amendment filed on March 11, 2005.

As in claim 6, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a write protection method of a recording medium having the following steps:

(a) a recording medium, including a Lead-in area, Lead-out area and a user area, is set to write a protection state ensuring the protection of data, including the entire user data area or a least a plurality of particular files;

(b) determining whether the recording medium is positioned in a case;

(c) checking whether a case is set to a write protection state; and

(d) if the state of the recording medium checked in the checking of the state of the recording medium does not match the write protection state of the case, informing a user of the difference.

As in claim 9, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a write protection method of a recording medium having the following steps:

(a) a write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, wherein the entire user data area of a recording medium, the recording medium including a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area and the user data area, is set to a write protection state;

(b) checking a state of the recording medium provided by write protection information of the recording medium, stored in an area of the recording medium other than the user data area, and a write protection state of a write inhibit hole of a case or cartridge positioning the recording medium therein; and

(c) prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium based on the state of the recording medium and/or the state of the write inhibit hole being set to a write protection state.

As in claim 16, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a recording medium separately including a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area, a user area, and a recording information area, the recording information area having a Power Calibration Area (PCA) and a Recording Management Area (RMA). The recording medium uses a write protection method having the following steps:

(a) the recording information area includes write protection information to control protection of data, including the entire recording medium, except for the RMA, from unwanted writing or erasing;

(b) checking the write protection information stored in at least one area of the RMA area of the recording medium; and

(c) prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium when the write protection information of the recording medium is set to a write protection state.

As in claim 25, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a write protection method of a recording medium having the following steps:

(a) a write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, wherein the entire user data area of a recording medium, the recording medium including a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area and the user data area, is set to a write protection state;

(b) checking a write protection state of the recording medium provided by write protection information, of the recording medium, stored in at least one area of the Lead-in and Lead-out areas of the recording medium; and

(c) prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium if a state of the recording medium is set to a write protection state.

The features indicated above, in combination with the other elements of the claims, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (for formal communications intended for entry. Or:

(703) 746-6909, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed USPTO Contact Center (703) 308-4357; Electronic Business Center (703) 305-3028.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim CHU whose telephone number is (571) 272-7585 between 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Kim-Kwok CHU

KC 3/15/05
Examiner AU2653

March 15, 2005

(571) 272-7585

Ed
TAN DINH
PRIMARY EXAMINER